LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of draining and venting the permeate gases from a flexible tubular pipe[[,]] ~~especially one~~ for transporting hydrocarbons, ~~said~~ wherein the flexible tubular pipe ~~comprising~~ comprises

at least one internal pressure sheath ~~(14)~~ suitable for ~~conveying said~~ transporting the hydrocarbons, whereby permeate gases contained in ~~said~~ the hydrocarbons ~~being~~ are liable to diffuse through the wall of ~~said~~ the internal pressure sheath ~~(14)~~, ~~and comprising~~

an external sheath around the internal sheath; ~~(24)~~ and

at least one ~~or more~~ reinforcing ~~plies (16, 18, 20)~~ ply located in an annular region ~~(23)~~ lying between ~~said~~ the external sheath ~~(24)~~ and ~~said~~ the internal pressure sheath ~~(14), said,~~ the annular region (23) having, along ~~said~~ the reinforcing plies, flow paths along which ~~said~~ the permeate gases can flow toward ~~venting means;~~ a vent for venting the permeate gases;

the method comprising:

~~characterized in that~~ injecting an entrainment gas ~~is injected~~ under pressure into ~~said~~ the annular region ~~(23);~~ and along ~~said~~ the flow paths~~, in order~~ to force ~~said~~ the permeate gases to flow along ~~said~~ the flow paths toward ~~said venting means~~ the vent; and

operating the vent ~~in that said venting means are suitable~~ for venting ~~said~~ the permeate gases out of ~~said~~ the annular region ~~(23)~~ and toward the outside of ~~said~~ the flexible tubular pipe.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~characterized in that said~~ entrainment gas is injected into a plurality of injection regions spaced apart longitudinally in ~~said~~ the annular region of ~~said~~ the flexible tubular pipe.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~or 2, characterized in that said~~ entrainment gas is injected at one of the ends of ~~said~~ the flexible tubular pipe.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a nitrogen-containing gas is injected.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, further comprising creating ~~characterized in that~~ the flow ~~is created~~ by sucking the ~~said~~ permeate gases out from at least one suction region inside ~~said~~ the annular region ~~in order~~ to force ~~said~~ the permeate gases to flow.

6. (Currently Amended) A flexible tubular pipe for transporting hydrocarbons, comprising

at least one internal pressure sheath ~~(14)~~ suitable for conveying ~~said~~ the hydrocarbons, the sheath being such that permeate gases contained in ~~said~~ the hydrocarbons ~~being~~ are liable to diffuse through the ~~wall of said~~ internal pressure sheath; ~~(14), and comprising~~

an external sheath around the internal sheath and defining an annular region between the sheaths; at least ~~(24) and~~ one ~~or more~~ reinforcing ~~plies (16, 18, 20)~~ ply located in ~~an~~ the annular region ~~(23)~~ lying between ~~said~~ the external sheath ~~(24)~~ and ~~said~~ the internal pressure sheath ~~(14)~~, ~~said~~ the annular region ~~(23)~~ having, along ~~said~~ the reinforcing plies, flow paths along which ~~said~~ the permeate gases can flow ~~toward~~ and

~~venting means~~ a vent toward which the permeate gases flow;[[,]] ~~characterized in that it includes~~

at least one supply line emerging in ~~said~~ the annular region ~~(23)~~ for supplying pressurized entrainment gas in order to force the ~~said~~ permeate gases in ~~said~~ the annular region to flow along ~~said~~ the flow paths toward ~~said venting means~~ the vent and ~~in that said venting means are~~ the vent is

suitable for venting ~~said~~ the permeate gases out of ~~said~~ the annular region ~~(23)~~ and toward the outside of ~~said~~ the flexible tubular pipe.

7. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the supply line ~~(22, 25, 32, 34, 36)~~ lying in the annular region ~~has~~ includes drilled injection holes ~~(38, 40)~~ spaced apart so as to form a plurality of injection regions spaced longitudinally along ~~said~~ the flexible tubular pipe.

8. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 6, further comprising ~~or 7, characterized in that said means for forcing said permeate gases to flow include~~ a pressurized-nitrogen supply connected to the supply line for forcing the permeate gases to flow.

9. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that said means~~ further comprising a device operable for forcing ~~said~~ the permeate gases to diffuse include a suction pump for sucking ~~said~~ the permeate gases into ~~said~~ the flow paths in at least one suction region of ~~said~~ the annular region.

10. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said venting means consist of~~ claim 6, wherein the vent comprises differential valves ~~suitable~~ operable for venting the gases by the pressure difference between ~~said~~ the annular region and the outside.